Central assistance for the Teesta Barrage Project in West Bengal

2555. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the West Bengal Government has asked for special Central assistance for the Teesta Barrage Project for the years 1984-85 and 1985-86 to the tune of Rs. 19.50 crores and Rs. 18.00 crores respectively; and

(b) if so, what deci ion has been taken by the Central Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Irrigation projects are required to be funded by the State Governments from their Plan resources inclusive of the general Central assistance which is given to the State Plan as a whole and which is not tied to any particular sector of development or project.

Method of testing food samples for pesticides residues

2556. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that no guidelines have been issued by Government on the method of testing food samples for pesticide residues and that the State food testing laboratories attached to the Departments fo Prevention of Food Adulteration do not have sophisticated instruments required to determine the percentage of pesticide residues in food sampies; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefore and how such tests are being carried out and steps being taken by Government to improve the working of food testing laboratories?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) and (b) The methods of testing of food samples for analysis of pesticides are available in the Standard books on Food Analysis. A manual on analytical methods of pesticides in food has also been compiled and the same has been circulated to some of the food laboratories. The State Governments have been advised to get their Analysts trained in analysis of pesticides. Sophisticated equipments like Gas Liquid Chromatography are also supplied to the Food Laboratories by Govt. of India out of W.H.O. funds.

Treatment of children born after the Bhopal gas tragedy

2557. SHRI H. L. KAPUR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state what steps have been taken to render medical assistance to those children who have been born maimed after the Bhopal gas tragedy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): A specific study has been initiated under Indian Council of Medical Research to monitor the growth and development of newborns in MIC-affected areas and to suggest the possible interventions. This is in addition to treatment for specific ailments which is provided through the network of health institutions in and around Bhopal.

Talks between India and Bangladesh on sharing of Ganga waters

2558. SHRI INDRADEEP SINHA:
SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV:
PROF. B. RAMACHANDRA RAO:

Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Prime Minister's special envoy, Shri P. Shiv Shankar discussed the sharing and augmentation of Ganga waters during his recent visit to Bangladesh;

(b) if so, what are the broad outlines of the proposal, if any, given by the Bangladesh Government; and

(c) when the matter is likely to be taken up next?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (c) Shri P. Shiv Shankar visited Bangladesh from 31st July to 2nd August, 1985 as a special emissary of the Prime Minister and held discussion on various bilateral matters including Ganga waters. Formal talks on Ganga waters issue are expected to be held shortly.

Failure of adult illiteracy eradication programme

2559. SHRI K. VASUDEVA PANICKER: Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government's programme for eradication of adult illiteracy in the country has failed;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps have been taken or are proposed to be taken by Government to streamline the programme?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION (SHRI K. C. PANT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Measures to streamline the programme include, continuous review through an in-built system of monitoring and evaluation as well as external evaluation through institutions in the field of social sciences research which helps to get feedback to make the programme more effective and efficient. After discussion with State Governments and other implementing agencies remedial measures are taken from time to time to rectify the shortcomings identfied by the evaluation reports. Following steps have been taken in this regard:—

(1) The State Governments and Union Territories have been advised to:

(a) Cover on priority basis all the districts having literacy rate below national average;

(b) Ensure that at least 50 per cent of the learners enrolled in the Adult Education Centres are women, 30 per cent Scheduled Castes and 16 per cent Scheduled Tribes.

(c) Make special efforts to enrol the weaker sections of the society;

(d) Give priority to the opening of the adult education centres in the rural and tribal areas and to locate such centres in bastis of SC/ST as far as possible;

(e) Encourage voluntary organisations with a view to promote their wider participation in the programme. Grants-in-aid rules have been relaxed to enable voluntary agencies to take up a minimum number of five centres exclusively for women instead of 30 centres for others.

(f) Lay special emphasis on post-literacy and follow up programme to ensure that neo-literates do not lapse into illiteracy; and

(g) Monitor among others the participation of students and non-student youth in adult education. To provide further boost to the Adult Education Programme, a scheme of awards has been instituted for excellence in performance in adult literacy for women.

(2) Involvement of students in the removal of illiteracy has been stepped up by the University Grants Commission.

(3) Use of mass media-folk, traditional and modern—is being made for motivational, promotional and instructional purposes.

(4) Linkages of adult education programme with various developmental programmes have been emphasised.

(5) The new guidelines aiming at intensification of the literacy efforts by providing a learning continum spread over two years, including post-literacy and follow-up activities have been issued.